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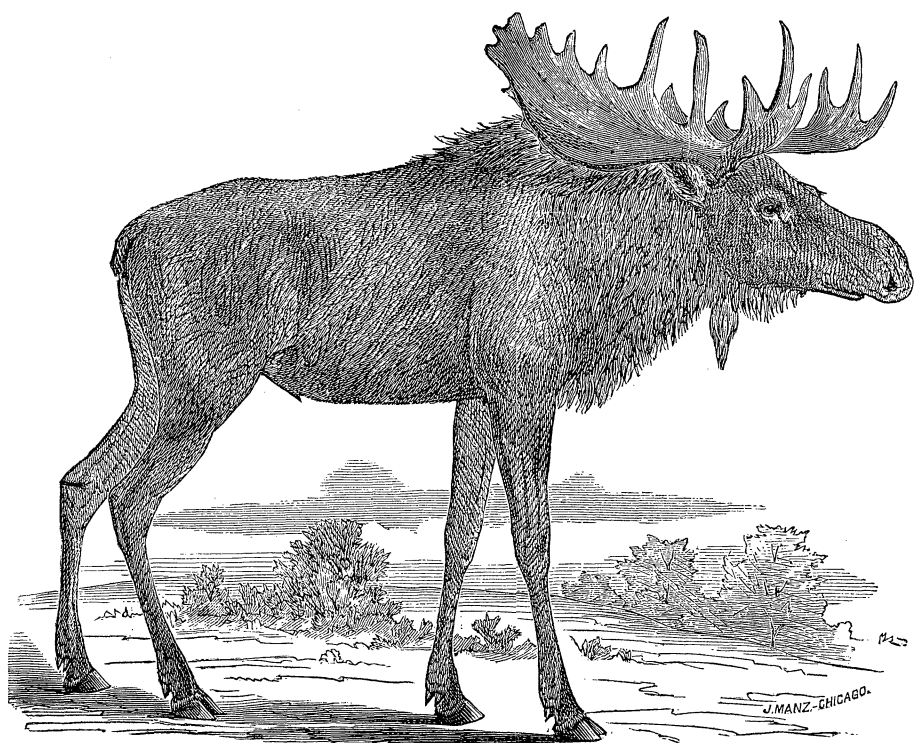
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RECENT LITERATURE.

CATON'S DEER OF AMERICA.¹—We notice this important work from advance sheets kindly furnished by the publishers. The author is well known to have devoted much time and care to the study of the *Cervidæ*, and has already published many articles on the subject which have shown him to be a close and accurate observer, and have made him the highest authority in this country respecting all that relates to the natural history proper of these valuable and interesting quadrupeds.



Male Moose.

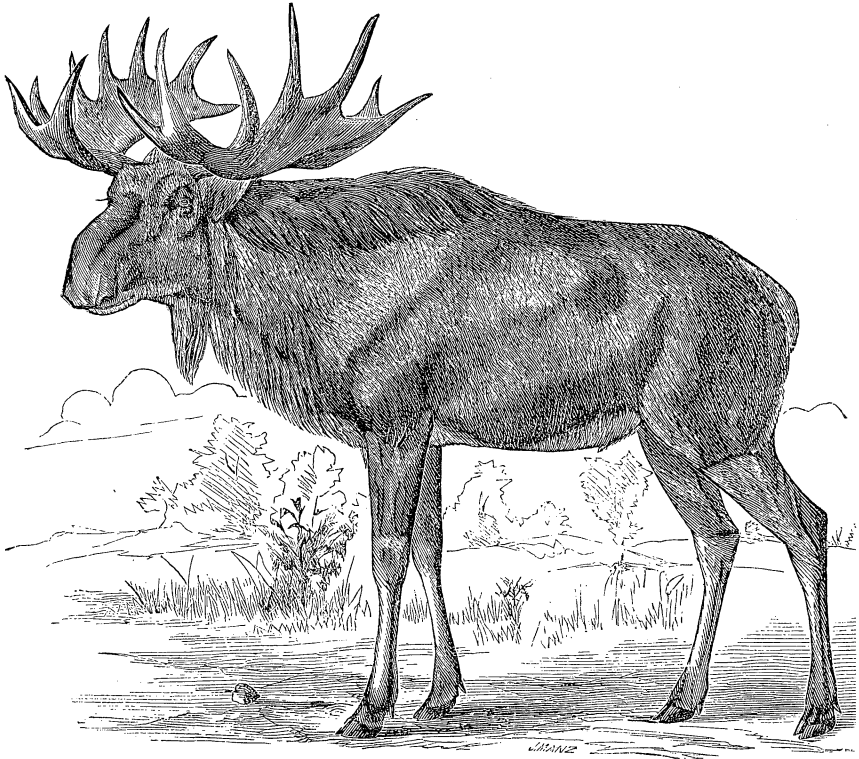
(Fig. 66.)

In the present work we have the final outcome and thorough digest of his long studies, in the form of an exhaustive monograph which will at once become the standard authority. He is to be congratulated upon this consummation, which will redound so largely to his reputation as an

¹ *The Antelope and Deer of America* A Comprehensive Scientific Treatise upon the Natural History, including the Characteristics, Habits, Affinities, and Capacity for Domestication, of the *Antilocapra* and *Cervidæ* of North America. By JOHN DEAN CATON, LL. D. New York: Published by Hurd and Houghton; Boston: H. O. Houghton and Company; Cambridge: The Riverside Press.

observer of nature, and we congratulate ourselves upon the acquisition of so careful, so thorough, and so reliable a treatise.

We do not take the present occasion for any elaborate review of the work, in which to track after statements with the view of verifying or criticising particulars; we wish rather simply to point out the general character of the work, and bring its high average of merit and reliability prominently into view. The work is open to serious criticism in the matter of the classification which the author has seen fit to adopt,



Scandinavian Elk.

(Fig. 67.)

and we doubt that his views on this portion of the subject are sound, from a purely scientific stand-point, or that they will receive the countenance of professed therologists. But we do not think that this criticism will in the least disturb the author, who seems to have aimed at some convenient arrangement of the ruminants, by which the relations of the species he treats may be readily recognized, rather than any formal presentation of the technics of the case. And we would immediately add that his elaborate, minute, and faithful descriptions of the species put us in possession of exactly the facts that we should most wish for

were we to undertake such a classification as the author does not give. Here are the materials, in short, upon which to work at the taxonomy of the subject.

In preparing this work, the author seems to have kept steadily in view the special object of promoting a taste for natural history among those who are fond of field-sports. It is an invitation to all such to study



Red Deer or Stag of Europe.

(FIG. 68.)

natural history for the pure and high pleasures it is capable of affording when viewed in the proper light, — an invitation kind and courteous in spirit, and withal hard to refuse, so strongly does the author address us with his interesting writing and his long array of delightful description and narrative. Judge Caton is one of those pleasant, persuasive writers who will take no denial; he carries us along whether we will or not, and ends by making us wonder why everybody does not turn to keep-

ing deer and studying their structure and habits! But, quite seriously, we would urge the double delight that all sportsmen and hunters may experience, if, instead of ending their interest in game with killing it, they would capture animals and birds, and study them. This would, moreover, be excellent service rendered to science; should it ever become general, new and interesting facts would accumulate with astonish-



Male Elk or Wapiti of America.

(FIG. 69.)

ing rapidity, and the most desirable results would immediately follow. In fact it is not too much to say that in the present state of zoölogical science in this country the technical scientists, full of their skulls and teeth and dry hides and their taxonomic refinements, are turning eager eyes toward the sportsmen and practical field naturalists, in the hope of learning what they now most need to know. Judge Caton in himself

illustrates the honorable capacity of the amateur naturalist (we use the term in its best sense, implying high credit, without a shade of the reverse) to supplement museum-acquired learning with other information of equal scientific importance, of greater practical utility, and much more general interest. This is exactly what the present work very conspicuously accomplishes. It will, we make no doubt, meet with a hearty welcome, and have a wide-spread influence for good. For ourselves, engaged as we are upon a general history of North American Mammals, we would thank the author personally for a contribution so timely and so exactly to our hand; we are selfishly pleased to find so generous a slice of the work already cut and dried for our own use.

As already intimated, we do not here propose any elaborate review of the work in detail, and we close with allusion to a few leading points: the prongbuck is very fully treated in the first sixty-five pages; then follow the eight "distinct and well-defined" North American species of *Cervidæ*, namely, the moose, the wapiti or American elk, the two species of reindeer, woodland and barren-ground, the common or Virginian deer, the mule deer (commonly called black-tail in the West), the Columbian or true black-tailed deer of the Pacific slopes, and a curious little species, lately described by the Judge as new, under the name of *Cervus Acapulcensis*. We are not acquainted with the latter; the recognition of the other seven agrees with our previous impressions on the subject, and with the now generally accepted views of the best authorities. These species occupy pp. 66-322. The work very properly continues with a comparison of the several European species. Persons are frequently puzzled by the reverse use of the terms "moose" and "elk." The author makes it perfectly clear that the American *moose* is the analogue of the palmate-horned animal called "elk" in Europe; and that the American *elk* is the analogue of the stag or red deer of Europe. From among the many characteristic wood-cuts which illustrate the volume, we have selected as most useful to reproduce for our readers the four pictures which show up this point. — E. COVES.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS. Notes on the Osteology and Myology of the Domestic Fowl (*Gallus domesticus*), for the use of Colleges and Schools of Comparative Anatomy and for the Independent Zoological Student. By Victor C. Vaughan, Ph. D. Sheehan & Co. Ann Arbor, Mich. 1876. 12mo, pp. 116, with cuts. \$1.50.

How to Camp Out. By John M. Gould. New York: Scribner, Armstrong, & Co. 1877. 12mo, pp. 134.

Brehm's Thierleben. Band 9, Heft 1-7. Leipzig. 1877. For sale by Westermann & Co., 524 Broadway, New York. 40 cents a Heft.

Revisio critica Capsinarum, Præcipue Scandinaviæ et Fennix. Ab Odo M. Reuter. Helsingfors. 1875. 8vo, pp. 190.

South Kensington Museum Science Handbooks. Branch Museum, Bethnal Green. Economic Entomology. By Andrew Murray, F. L. S. Aptera. Chapman and Hall, 193 Picadilly, London. 12mo, pp. 433, with numerous cuts.

Capsinæ ex America boreali in Museo Holmiensi asservatæ, descriptæ ab O. M. Reuter. Stockholm. 1875. 8vo, pp. 33.